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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 57th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

later: Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued) (A/49/375 and Add.1-3 and A/49/501/Add.1)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (A/49/375/Add.2), noted that, by resolution 997 (1995), the Security Council had extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) until 9 December 1995 and authorized a reduction of its force to 1,800. He recalled that, in its resolution 49/20, the General Assembly had decided, with regard to the period beyond 9 December 1994, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for a four-month period, at a monthly rate not to exceed $15 million gross, in connection with the maintenance of the Assistance Mission, provided that any amount above $10.5 million per month should be designated for military personnel costs and specifically justified to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee. The General Assembly had further requested that revised cost estimates be submitted for the period 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995 as well as the corresponding performance reports.

2. The Secretary-General's current report contained performance reports covering the periods 22 June to 21 December 1993 and 5 October 1993 to 9 April 1995. The unencumbered balances from those two periods had already been credited to Member States.

3. The revised cost estimate for the operation of UNAMIR for the period from 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995 was projected at $158,449,600 gross and incorporated the commitment authority which had been authorized for the period from 10 December 1994 to 9 April 1995 by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/20. The estimated cost of maintaining UNAMIR for the period from 10 June to 31 December 1995 was $141,832,300 gross, based on a full military strength of 320 military observers and 5,500 contingent personnel, and on a strength of 90 civilian police. On that basis the Advisory Committee had recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $143,417,100 gross for UNAMIR for the period from 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995, inclusive of the amount of $60 million gross authorized in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 49/20 for the maintenance of UNAMIR for the period from 10 December 1994 to 9 April 1995.

4. In light of the Council's most recent decision, the cost estimate for the period from 10 June to 31 December 1995 had been reduced from $131,038,700 gross to $109,951,900 gross. That reduction was based on the following assumptions that the total number of troops in the mission area would be reduced to 1,800 by the end of September 1995, that there would be a 10 per cent reduction in the cost of civilian personnel as well as in other general operating expenses, while maintaining the requirements of the military observers, civilian police and air operations, and that there would be an increase in the requirements for the transport of contingent-owned equipment and commercial freight and cartage.

5. Reimbursements to troop-contributing Governments had been made up to March 1995.

6. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 108: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/49/6 (in fascicle form), A/49/16 (Parts I and II), A/49/99 and Add.1, A/49/135 and Add.1, A/49/301, A/49/310; A/C.5/49/27 and Add.1; E/1994/4 and E/1994/19)

7. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico), reporting on the informal consultations on agenda item 108, said that no consensus had been reached on either the procedural or the substantive aspects of the proposed draft resolution. As coordinator of the consultations, she would therefore recommend that further consideration should be deferred to the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

8. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) pointed out that the budgetary planning cycle was posited on the expectation that the medium-term plan and any revisions thereto would be completed in a non-budget year. The Committee must realize that its chances of making progress on revisions to the medium-term plan during the fiftieth session were virtually nil and it would thus be failing to discharge its responsibilities in the budgetary process. While the United Kingdom had been ready to follow the normal procedures for revising the texts prepared by the Secretary-General, certain of its interlocutors had chosen not to do so and had failed to propose their own revisions.

9. The Committee's failure to discharge its responsibilities represented a serious breakdown in the Organization's budgetary and programme planning process and he therefore proposed that the Bureau should first consider the implications of a decision to defer consideration of the item and report thereon to the Committee.

10. Mr. HANSON (Canada) said that he shared the views just expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom.

11. Miss BUERGO (Cuba) said that the origin of the difficulties could be traced to the Secretariat's failure to properly discharge its mandate and to lack of political will on the part of certain States. While it made little sense to defer a decision, it was difficult to see how agreement could be reached without first resolving the underlying problems.

12. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) requested that the text of the draft decision regarding deferral of consideration of the item should be circulated in writing so that the Committee would have at least another day before foreclosing on its option to continue efforts to resolve the current situation.

13. Mr. HANSON (Canada) said that he shared the view just expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom. In any case, his delegation would not be in a position at the current stage to agree to postponing further consideration of the item.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau would consider the matter with a view to presenting a proposal to the Committee at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.